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NEW YORK TIMES  
20 FEBRUARY 1983

## Barbie Called One of Many Ex-Nazis Aided by U.S.

By Reuters

Klaus Barbie, the Gestapo official, was just one of a number of former Nazis protected by United States agencies in exchange for their knowledge of Soviet activities or other expertise, according to American investigators.

These Germans were used by American intelligence agencies as informants, as consultants on foreign policy decisions and as scientists and technicians, the investigators say.

"Whether we are comfortable with it or not, we are dealing with something that is on the public record," said Martin Mendelsohn, a former investigator of war criminals in the Justice Depart-

ment and now a Washington lawyer for the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Center, which is based in Los Angeles.

George F. Kennan, the historian and former diplomat, said one of the Nazis brought to the United States after World War II was Gustav Hilger, Hitler's Deputy Foreign Minister.

"We were very glad he was here because he had a tremendous knowledge about the Soviet Union," Mr. Kennan said. "We brought him here because we were worried that, if we didn't, the Soviets would get him."

Mr. Kennan first met Mr. Hilger while they were serving at their respective embassies in Moscow in the 1930's. Mr. Hilger later returned to Berlin, where he served under Foreign Minister Joachim Ribbentrop.

While Mr. Kennan referred to Mr. Hilger, now dead, as "a very decent man" and, to his knowledge, as not guilty of any war crimes, Charles Allen Jr., an expert on war criminals, has written that, after Mr. Hilger returned to Berlin from Moscow, he became "the liaison between Ribbentrop's office and the SS Einsatzgruppen, or 'Special Task Forces,' which murdered some 1.4 million Soviet Jews on the Eastern Front."

In his 1963 book "Nazi War Criminals Among Us," Mr. Allen wrote that Mr. Hilger had been paid by the Central Intelligence Agency and by the State Department as a consultant.

Mr. Kennan said he was unaware of any payments made to Mr. Hilger by the United States Government.

A 1978 report by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, said the C.I.A. had sought assistance from some 22 former Nazis living in the United States after World War II.

The report referred to payments made to an unidentified "senior official of the German Foreign Ministry during the Nazi era" who was an expert on Soviet affairs.

Elizabeth Holtzman, the Brooklyn District Attorney, who pressed for the prosecution of war criminals while a member of Congress in the 1970's, said that many of the people listed by the G.A.O. had been assisted by Govern-

ment agencies in avoiding prosecution.

"The Barbie allegations are not new in the sense of the involvement of the U.S. Government with ex-Nazis and war criminals," she said. "It is a sordid part of this country's past."

Erhard Dabringhaus, a former military intelligence officer who said he paid Mr. Barbie \$1,700 a month as an informant, said his superiors were aware of Mr. Barbie's background.

"People were making conscious and knowledgeable decisions based on the political climate at the time," Mr. Mendelsohn of the Wiesenthal Center said.

After the war 1,500 Austrian and German scientists, including Wernher von Braun, the space pioneer, were brought to the United States. Mr. Allen said most could not be termed war criminals, but one, Walter Schreiber, was convicted in absentia by a Polish tribunal of conducting medical experiments in the Auschwitz death camp.

Mr. Allen obtained a formerly secret memorandum between the Army Counter Intelligence Corps and Air Force intelligence indicating that the authorities had arranged for Mr. Schreiber's resettlement in Argentina. Further research showed that he moved to Paraguay in 1952, Mr. Allen said.

Congressional committees have been looking into the matter and their inquiry has been given further impetus by the Barbie case.